

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended, and claims 15 and 16 are added.

Accordingly, claims 1-14 are pending in this application. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The March 18, 2005 final Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,659,639 to Mahoney et al. ("Mahoney"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Mahoney does not disclose an apparatus or method for generating a summary of a document including "extracting portions of the document, the extracted portions being identified by the detected annotations, and generating a summary including only the extracted portions of the document, the summary being generated as a separate electronic image document that is different from the original image," as recited in independent claims 1 and 8.

The Office Action asserts that Mahoney discloses receiving a document with an input image set having editing marks via a scanner, detecting or distinguishing the editing marks from a graphical features in the document, and outputting a version of the scanned document in which the editing operation has been performed. See Figs. 1 and 4. Specifically, the June 3, 2005 Advisory Action asserts that Mahoney teaches deleting certain features and generating a document with only features noted by the editing marks (Fig. 1 and col. 11, lines 57-67 of Mahoney). Therefore, the Advisory Action asserts that Mahoney teaches extraction of only those features detected by the editing marks for generating a summary.

Notwithstanding these assertions, Mahoney does not teach or suggest extracting portions of the document and generating a summary of the extracted portion, the summary being generated as a separate electronic image document that is different from the original image, as set forth in claims 1 and 8.

Mahoney discloses an apparatus and method including obtaining an input image set having graphical features 12, 14 and editing components 22, 24, 26, 28. See Fig. 1, and col. 11, lines 47-56. Mahoney discloses that the apparatus automatically obtains operation category data 30 indicating a type of the editing components 22, 24, 26, 28. See col. 11, line 57 - col. 12, line 8. Then, the apparatus automatically uses the operation category data 30 to obtain data defining an image of a sheet 32, which is an output image of the input image set in which editing operations have been performed. See col. 12, lines 8-12.

In other words, Mahoney discloses a machine and method for editing an original document according to editing marks, and outputting the edited version of the original document based on the editing marks. Therefore, the output image is an edited version of an original electronic image of the original document. As a result, the entire original electronic image document is edited according to the instructions associated with the editing marks, and an edited version of the entire the original electronic image document is output as the output image.

The Advisory Action appears to assert that the output image 32 of Mahoney is separate electronic image document from the original electronic image document. However, the output image 32 is not a different document, but rather is a display of the same original electronic image document, with edits included, as discussed above. According to Mahoney, the original electronic image document and the output image are the same electronic image document, so that a user can likely undo the edits. If the original image document and the output image were different electronic documents as suggested by the Advisory Action, the user would not be able to undo the edits. Thus, Mahoney does not disclose extracting portions of the original electronic image to create a summary of only extracted portions, the summary being generated as a separate electronic image document that is different from the original image.

In the apparatus and method of generating a summary of claims 1 and 8, an original electronic image document and an electronic summary of the original electronic image document are separate electronic documents. The extracted portions of the original electronic image document may, for example, be image maps of the original electronic image document (page 5, lines 4-9 of the specification). Additionally, the extracted portions may be tagged with a pointer or address indicating the place in the originally scanned image from which it is extracted (page 5, lines 4-9 of the specification). The extracted portions, e.g., the portions identified by the annotations, may be compiled in a summary that may be subsequently output (page 5, lines 21-26 and page 6, lines 11-12 of the specification). Therefore, the summary includes only the extracted regions of interest indicated by the annotations in the original document. See page 4, lines 2-6 of the specification.

During compilation of the summary, any further interpretations of the detected annotations may be carried out so that editing may be performed in the summary itself, not the original electronic document (page 5, lines 27-28 of the specification). For example, any crossed-through text can be removed from the summary itself, not the original image. See Fig. 4, and page 5, lines 28-30 of the specification. Further, the summary may be provided in expandable detail levels. See Abstract, page 5, lines 10-16, and page 6, line 13-16 of the specification. Because the summary is a separately generated electronic document, carrying out the annotations in the summary does not affect the original electronic image document. Mahoney does not teach or suggest such features.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Mahoney does not teach or suggest the apparatus and method of claims 1 and 8, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Mahoney. Claims 2-5 and 9-12 variously depend on claims 1 and 8, and

thus are also patentable over Mahoney. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 6-7 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mahoney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,779 to Kurosawa et al. ("Kurosawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Mahoney does not teach or suggest an apparatus and method including "extracting portions of the image of the document, the extracted portions being identified by the annotations, and generating a summary including only the extracted portions of the document, the summary being generated as a separate electronic image document that is different from the original image," as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Kurosawa does not remedy the deficiencies of Mahoney. Kurosawa is directed to a apparatus and method for processing a document image including inputting a document image, as image data, into an image inputting section 11. See Fig. 1, and col. 4, lines 4-7. However, editing marks are made to the input image after the input image is scanned by a scanner. Further, Kurosawa does not teach or suggest the summary being generated as a separate electronic image document that is different from the original image. For at least these reasons, Mahoney and Kurosawa, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the apparatus and method of claims 1 and 8, respectively.

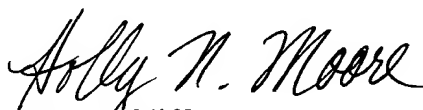
Therefore, claims 1 and 8 would not have been rendered obvious by Mahoney in view of Kurosawa. Claims 6-7 and 13-14 variously depend from claims 1 and 8, and thus would not have been rendered obvious by Mahoney in view of Kurosawa for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNM

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: June 20, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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